

Introducing the Fort Sumter – Fort Moultrie Historic Trust

The Fort Sumter-Fort Moultrie Historic Trust (“The Trust”) will serve as a supporting arm of the Fort Sumter National Monument and the National Park Service’s efforts to preserve, protect and enhance the park for the benefit and education of the public. With more than 330 million visitors each year, America’s National Parks are faced with increasing visitor use and infrastructure demands while appropriated dollars and budgets decrease. Today, Fort Sumter National Monument and Fort Moultrie do not have sufficient support to complete important education, preservation, and interpretive projects without the benefit of private dollars. Created as a 501c.3, the Trust will work to raise private dollars to supplement voids in federal funding as well as to secure preservation of the Park and its resources for future generations.

Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie play a significant role in our American history. As Charleston continues to gain prominence as one of the most popular destinations, Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie sustains increasing popularity hence subsequent visitor use concerns and needs. The National Park Service is meeting the growing needs of its parks as manifest at Fort Sumter with the newly opened Fort Sumter Tour Boat Facility and Visitor Education Center. The new facility provides the park a venue to interpret the important American history leading to Fort Sumter and the beginning of the Civil War. It also allows Fort Sumter, Fort Moultrie and the associated site Charles Pinckney in Mt. Pleasant an opportunity to more formally link interpretively with park partners such as the South Carolina State Parks, South Carolina Heritage Corridor, and other major attractions in the South Carolina Lowcountry to more fully explore America’s history and the expansion of liberty in our Nation.

These are exciting times for Charleston, a city that has realized unprecedented growth and renewal positioning itself among the top of the leading attractions in the United States. Charleston’s history and prominence can not be remarked without comment on the National Park Service’s presence and participation in the community. Unfortunately, many visitors and citizens do not realize that Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie share a common thread with the wondrous attractions that commonly characterize America’s National Parks s such as Yellowstone and Yosemite.

The Fort Sumter-Fort Moultrie Historic Trust has set an ambitious course for the future. Among its immediate objectives is to reduce and eliminate the debt owed to the Trust for Public Lands for the land adjacent to Fort Moultrie. As well, numerous activities and programs are planned to solidify The Trust’s position in the community and to bring the park greater national exposure.